

# The Morning Astorian.

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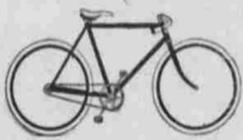
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## THE BOERS IN FULL RETREAT

Roberts Movement for Kimberley's Relief a Complete Success.

## FRENCH IN HARD PURSUIT

All Over England Public Joy is Manifested—Buller Reported to Have Again Crossed the Tugela.

LONDON, Feb. 17, 4 p. m.—General Buller, with a start of a day or two, is seemingly in full retreat from Lord Roberts, moving northward. General French, with his cavalry, simply stayed over night at Kimberley and then pushed on to get in touch with the retreating enemy. A long Boer wagon train is moving toward Bloemfontein, followed, presumably, by a large force of British infantry. In their hasty departure the Boers lost large quantities of supplies and ammunition. The military opinion here is that Lord Roberts will not push far after the Boers immediately, because of the transport problem and the need of rest for the troops. He has to feed 30,000 persons in his army and the whole Kimberley population. He must rebuild the railway from Modder river town to Kimberley and revictual later. General French lost a few men only in action, but the forced marches and heat have probably made many ill. Numbers of remounts must be provided.

Lord Roberts has wrought a genuine preliminary success and the impression is that he has done enough for the present and will need rest to prepare for another strike.

All over England tonight there has been evidence of public joy. In every theatre and public meeting, around the railway stations and in the streets, there have been expressions of gladness and jubilation over the news.

The newspapers are editorially rejoicing. Those who read the news closely see only one disturbing factor in the Cape situation; and that is the pressure of the Boers toward Lord Roberts' line of supply through De Aar, which is never more important than now.

The Boers, under Commandants De Lacey and Goble, are making a persistent effort to penetrate to the railway. They have pushed General Clements back to Arundel and have outflanked him. All are within sixty miles or two days' march of the Central railway.

Doubtless Lord Roberts has left considerable forces along the line and can send back more if necessary. In the lobbies of the house last night it was rumored that General Buller had again crossed the Tugela.

## THE BOER ACCOUNT.

Describes the British as Repulsed on the Kimberley Road.

PRETORIA, Feb. 16.—The Transvaal government has made public the following official dispatch: "Yesterday at Rondevaal drift, in the neighborhood of Jacobsdal, the federal troops were engaged in a severe fight with 2,000 British who were trying to reach Kimberley.

"Commandant De Larr continued the engagement until this morning, the federal casualties being five wounded.

"After another two hours' hard fighting it is reported the British retired, leaving Colonel Henry dangerously wounded. Colonel Henry with his servant was taken to Jacobsdal."

## ROBERTS' BELATED DISPATCH.

He Describes the Movements Leading Up to Kimberley.

LONDON, Feb. 16, 9:30 p. m.—The following dispatch from General Roberts fills a gap in his earlier dispatches: "Modder River, Feb. 16.—The Sixth division left Waterfall drift early yesterday morning and marched here, going on the same evening to Rondevaal drift to hold the crossing of the Modder river and leave General French free to act.

"Shortly after arriving here the mounted infantry visited Jacobsdal and found it full of women and children with four of our wounded men, doing well.

"On the way back, the mounted infantry were attacked and nine men were wounded.

"Colonel Henry and Major Hadfield and ten men were missing. Both officers were subsequently found at Jacobsdal, slightly wounded.

"The cavalry division is moving in a northerly direction and has apparently already reduced the pressure on Kimberley, as Kewich signals that the enemy has abandoned Alexanderfontein and that he has occupied it.

"French has advanced as far as Abonstam, with slight loss, and is now pushing on his posts, his rear being held by the mounted infantry.

"Clements, having been pressed by

the Boers has retired to Arundel to cover Naanpoort."

"The war office points out that word 'here' in the above dispatch means some point on the Modder river, other than Modder river station.

## FRENCH'S ADVANCE.

Details of His Movement Up to Tuesday Night.

RIET RIVER, Orange Free State, Wednesday—General French, with a cavalry division and a strong artillery detachment, left Sunday morning for Rumban, 12 miles from Enslin, where the whole division concentrated. The next day he made a rapid march to Riet river, where a party of Boers contested his passage at Dekiel and Waterfall drifts. After some hours of shelling, French drove the Boers away and crossed the river.

Yesterday (Tuesday) the column continued its march to Klip and Rombadval drifts on the Modder river, where again a short engagement ensued, General French shelling the Boers vigorously and forcing a passage. The Boers precipitately retired, leaving five lancers in the hands of the British, besides a great quantity of cattle and 2,000 sheep.

The rapidity of French's march and the overwhelming nature of his force enabled him, in spite of the difficulty of water transportation, to thoroughly outwit and surprise the Boers. The British casualties were slight.

They were informed that an agreement had been reached between the British officer commanding the extreme left and the commandant of the Boer ambulance corps that half a company of British should be permitted to fetch water from a neighboring farm house. The ambulance then retired and the Boers rushed out of concealment and cut off the water party.

General French now holds both the Modder and Riet rivers between the Boers and Magersfontein. Throughout the march the Free State farms were respected but their owners almost invariably fled, taking their effects with them.

The health of the troops is excellent, but sickness is prevalent among the horses.

## ABANDON THEIR TRENCHES.

Boers Are Fleeing From the British at Magersfontein.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—General Roberts sent the following dispatch:

"Jacobsdal, Feb. 16.—I have good reason to believe the Magersfontein trenches have been abandoned and that the Boers are endeavoring to escape. One of General Kelly-Kenny's brigades of infantry is in pursuit of a large Boer convoy moving towards Bloemfontein.

## THE BOERS RETREAT.

It Was Much Harassed by the British Fire.

OUTSIDE JACOBSDAL, Orange Free State, Feb. 15.—The road between Modder river and Jacobsdal is now opened. The distance is only 3 miles. The road is available for sending reinforcements and supplies.

When the Boers evacuated Jacobsdal they were obliged to pass over the ridge where they afforded a splendid mark for the British guns, which showered shrapnel upon the retreating enemy. A convoy which had been attacked at the Riet river had been countermanded, but the order did not arrive in time and the experience was a very warm one, although the Boers did little material damage.

As General French, with a strengthened division, pushed forward toward Kimberley, he found the beleaguering Boers deserting their positions at Alexanderfontein, thus allowing a portion of the Kimberley garrison to occupy and entrench the place.

## GOOD KIMBERLEY HOSPITALS.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—The war office tonight issued the following from Lord Roberts:

"Jacobsdal, Feb. 15, 7:45 a. m.—I was much gratified upon arrival here to find admirable hospital arrangements made by the German ambulance corps, under Drs. Kaetner and Hildebrand, who, with their staffs, have shown the greatest kindness to our wounded, as they have to the Boer wounded. Some of our wounded have been here since December. Some were brought in yesterday."

## BOER RAID ON ZULULAND.

Proposition to Arm the Natives Not Taken Seriously.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—The Morning Leader says:

"It was no vain report which told us of a strong Boer column in Zululand. It has been strong enough to drive back Colonel Addison's column, which had been working up from Tschow. This place is unpleasantly close to the sea and if the Boers should get there they would practically have a port. Not a big one, but still a port. Even at Cheveloy camp the Boers are keeping General Buller's men busy.

"The statements of Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Balfour in the House of Commons regarding the arming of natives opens up a new prospect of horror in this calamitous war. However great the provocation, we should regard arming the undisciplined and uncivilized Kaffirs as an act of the greatest folly. To put a rifle in the hands of a savage is to invite him to commit atrocities. He has no other conception of warfare."

## SEVERE BATTLE AT RENSEURG

Boers Attack the British Force With Overwhelming Force.

## COLONEL CONYNGHAM KILLED

A Retirement Upon Arundel Finally Effected With Heavy Loss—Fight Near Cape Town.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The Daily Telegraph has the following dispatch from Naanpoort, dated February 15:

"Severe fighting has occurred on both our flanks near Renseurg. The enemy greatly outnumbered our troops, being about 4,000 in number. They attacked the Worcestershire regiment on their hill and made a desperate demonstration, charging home, only to experience so heavy a Maxim and rifle fire from our men that the death roll of the assailants must have been considerable.

A patrol of the Inniskilling dragoons was surrounded by some 500 Boers and gallantly cut its way through without loss, but a company of the New South Wales mounted infantry was unfortunately annihilated, most of the men's bayonets, however, bearing the impress of a sanguinary conflict with their foes.

"Colonel Conyngham was shot through the heart. The enemy chose the time of the moon's setting for their onslaught. Out of five colonial officers, only one returned to camp.

"A strategic and concentrative move back to Arundel has been decided upon. Nine wounded officers and 25 men were brought into the Naanpoort field hospital. Our death roll at present is not known."

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The correspondent of the Daily Mail at Naanpoort, telegraphing Wednesday and describing the evacuation of Renseurg, says:

"Two companies of the Wiltshire regiment, withdrawing from the Kloof camp, lost their way and are missing. Their whereabouts, however, is pretty well known, and they will probably be relieved tonight.

"Boer losses around Colesburg on Monday are reported to have been extremely heavy."

## FIGHT NEAR CAPE TOWN.

Boer Report Says British Were Forced to Retreat.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Lourenco Marques, dated February 15, says:

"Heavy fighting has occurred at Ramah in the Free State, not far from Cape Town, Cape Colony. The Boers say they held all their positions, the British finally retreating."

## IS KIMBERLEY RELIEVED?

General French Has Arrived There but His Communications May Not Be Open.

LONDON, Feb. 14, 1:45 p. m.—While there is tremendous satisfaction and jubilation here at Lord Roberts' and General French's success, those best suited to judge the situation are inclined to the opinion that, pending more definite information, the news had better be regarded as assuming rather than as accomplishing the relief of Kimberley.

"Careful study of the ambiguity of the wording of Roberts' dispatch leads to the belief that the actual relief of the place is a matter of time. Kimberley, it is pointed out, can scarcely be termed 'relieved' until it is feasible to take provisions through. The rapidity of French's march indicates that he was unable to do this, and whether he left his lines behind him open is only a matter of surmise. It is considered most probable that Roberts' and French's brilliant tactical success resembles the first relief of Lucknow, when the disposal of the enemy's forces was by no means immediately effected.

Another remarkable feature of Roberts' laconic cablegrams is that it is dated at Jacobsdal, which is the Boer advance base of supplies, yet there is no word explaining the British commander's presence there, nor a word of any opposition which he or French encountered. Had Roberts' inflicted a decisive victory over the Boers it is believed he would have mentioned it, as such success would greatly paragonize the relief of Kimberley or throwing into that place a garrison which could assure its holding out.

However, French's entry into Kimberley has been effected, and doubtless brings joy to the hearts of those who have been shut up in the city for 12 days. Their defenders number about 4,000, while French's force is estimated at between 5,000 and 6,000 men. The Sixth and Seventh divisions have already crossed the river and are probably with Roberts at Jacobsdal. What has happened to Cronje and the whereabouts of his forces puzzles the experts.

A dispatch from Cape Town, dated February 14, received this morning, says:

"The Boers are leaving Magersfontein to reinforce other positions. It is estimated that between 7,000 and 10,000 men remain there."

Roberts' wide turning movement via Jacobsdal, may have cut off the Boer troops from Bloemfontein, but while the British forces are endeavoring to intercept the Boer communications, there is a parallel Boer column trying to cut off the British from De Aar, and it is apparently meeting with some success.

A Boer dispatch from Lourenco Marques says the initial attack on Colesburg on February 12 resulted in a federal loss of nine killed, 14 wounded and five prisoners. The British, it is added, were driven out of their camp and one of their Maxims captured.

The news of French's entry into Kimberley was received on the stocks exchange here with rousing cheers. De-beers rose 1/2, but subsequently fell 1/4 on a Paris rumor that French had merely fallen into a Boer trap, as to a dispatch referring to the condition of Ladysmith is regarded as reassuring. There is no further word from Buller, and nothing startling is expected to occur in Natal in the immediate future.

## THE SITUATION IN LADYSMITH

Fever Is Abating and the Health of the Troops Is Good.

## A CORRESPONDENT'S ESCAPE

His Account of Life in the beleaguered City—Horse Meat the Staple Article of Diet.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—The correspondent of the Associated Press at Ladysmith, from which place he escaped on February 19 and arrived at Durban, February 14, sends the following, written before he left Ladysmith:

"Since the furious cannonade the early part of the week, quietness has reigned. The hills on which the relief column's lyddite shells were bursting in hundreds a few days previously are now only occupied by grazing cattle. Further away on the north side, of Spionkop, the Boers' laagers can be seen, evidently bigger than before, showing they have no idea of present of retreating from the position.

"There is much disappointment at the non-appearance of Buller, as from the severity of the fire, every heart was glowing with hope and excitement at the prospect of immediate relief. Not that we are at all in the blues, for everyone capable of shouldering a rifle is confident in our ability to hold the town against any force the Boers are capable of putting in the field, but still the continued use of horse and mule flesh is getting somewhat monotonous, although the health of the camp, taking everything into consideration, is better than could be expected.

"Enteric fever and dysentery are abating, camp fever is not severe, but is slightly increased. The scarcity of vegetables is very trying to the troops, and they are luxuriating beyond the means of the majority.

Eggs are 36 shillings a dozen, a small fowl is 15 shillings 6 pence, pumpkins 12 shillings each, a tin of jam 12 shillings 6 pence, a box of sardines 3 shillings, lococo 9 shillings a pound. A case of whiskey was valued for £118.

"The Boers are smuggling tobacco into the camp through natives. A local factory is turning out excellent horse sausages and another is making nourishing soup which is much appreciated by the troops, who certainly have increased in strength since this was served out.

The escape of the Associated Press correspondent was most adventurous and arduous.

## LADYSMITH QUIET.

HEAD LAAGER, (near Ladysmith), Feb. 14.—The British at Cheveloy have been bombarding the Boer forces at Blaauw Krantz, east of Colesburg, since yesterday afternoon, the bombardment continuing throughout the night. The Boers responded with rifle fire. Particulars are lacking. All is quiet around Ladysmith.

## MORE MONEY FOR THE ARMY.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—The House of Commons tonight passed the supplementary army estimates, £13,000,000, by 213 votes, against 32.

## FIGHTING AT COLESBERG.

The British Reported by the Boers to Have Lost Heavily.

PRETORIA, Feb. 15.—An official dispatch from Colesberg says the fighting was resumed Tuesday (February 12) and that the British had sixty killed and wounded and lost eighty captured. The federal forces had no casualties during the fight.

## BACK TO FRANKFORT.

Kentucky Democrats Conclude to Join the Regular Legislature.

## LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 16.—

The democrats of the legislature will resume their sessions in the state capitol at Frankfort. Both houses met at noon and after short sessions took a recess until later in the afternoon. A quorum was present in the house, but not in the senate, and the interim was spent in securing one. A quorum is necessary for the passage of the current resolution to resume sessions at Frankfort.

The committee appointed to investigate conditions at Frankfort will make no formal report.

## CHOYNSKI BEATS MAREL.

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—Joe Choynski got a decision over Peter Marel in a six round contest before the Dearborn Athletic Club tonight.

## WASHINGTON CONVENTION.

Republicans Have Postponed the State Meeting Until April 5.

SEATTLE, Feb. 16.—The republican state central committee has decided by a mail vote to postpone the state convention at Ellensburg from April 4 to April 5, on account of the municipal election at Tacoma April 4.

The Boers are leaving Magersfontein